

REMARKS

Reconsideration of all grounds of objection and rejection, and allowance of all the claims are respectfully requested in light of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1, 2 and 4-29 remain pending herein. Claim 15 has been amended to overcome an objection thereto.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter recited of claim 3. Accordingly claim 3 was cancelled and claim 3-type language was removed from claim 5.

Claims 23 and 25 were rewritten in independent form.

At the outset, Applicant notes with appreciation the indication in the Office Action that claims 3-12, 14-23 and 25 recite allowable subject matter.

I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

(a) Claims 1, 2, 24, and 26-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,300,002 to Roper (hereinafter "Roper '002").

(b) Claims 13 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Roper'002 in view of Baker (U.S. Patent 5,927,455, hereinafter "Baker").

II. Traversal

Applicant respectfully submits the amendment of claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 3, and rewriting of allowable claims 23 and 25 in independent form, renders moot all art-based grounds of rejection stated above. All of claims 2 and 4-29 depend directly, or through an intervening claim, from one of claims 1, 23 or 25.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all objections and rejections are overcome. Thus, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment relating to this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 19-4375.

Respectfully submitted,

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